

Representative James Moylan Testimony

Thank you, Mr. Chairman for holding this hearing and allowing me the chance to speak about issues of critical importance to my district of Guam.

Mr. Chairman, this term we have the privilege of writing and passing the Farm bill, this is especially exciting for me as it is a privilege that my predecessor did not enjoy.

I have come before the committee today to discuss some of the amendments that I will be offering to the farm bill.

The first of these amendments will designate the Guam office of USDA Rural Development as a state level office, giving them the ability to bring decision making on the ground in Guam, as opposed to the status quo where final decisions are made 3,000 miles away in Hawaii. In speaking with my constituents, I have heard time and again their concerns with decision making regarding Guam businesses and government were being made in Hawaii, this is an unacceptable outcome for my constituents. They should not have to call 808 numbers, whether for their healthcare or to get help applying for federal grants and low interest loans.

The next amendment I would like to discuss would extend Section 7119 of the 2018 farm bill, this section authorizes grants to support Agriculture and Food Science Programs at Insular Colleges. This money helps our local institutions of higher education pay to acquire, alter, or repair facilities and equipment necessary for conducting agricultural research.

My amendment would also pull \$40 million from the unallocated money within USDA originally from the IRA. This would **double** the available money over the next five years, providing an essential boost to help insular colleges research in the agricultural field in a tropical climate.

The final amendment I would like to bring to your attention would allow for the creation of an advisory committee to the Secretary focused on issues relating to the US Territories and Freely Associated States. This would ensure that when USDA is promulgating rules, or considering changes in agency policy, that they are consulting representatives of the territories.

When I am home in district, I constantly hear stories of constituents forced to join agency calls at all hours of the night because they do not take into consideration their pacific stakeholders, this advisory committee will ensure that does not happen going forward.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for allowing me the chance to come before you and speak about my priorities for the upcoming farm bill. I am always happy to work with committee staff or other members on these issues. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

I yield back.